



# Building The Bridge

## For Student Success

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### **Mission:**

To facilitate collaboration and leverage resources between public and private sectors to support educational excellence and optimize the Doña Ana County workforce.

### **Vision:**

All students in Doña Ana County graduate with skills to compete in an international workforce.

### **Goals:**

- Achieve the highest high school graduation rate in New Mexico by 2016.
- Optimize career and technical educational opportunities for students to satisfy the needs of Doña Ana County businesses.

### **Strategic Objectives:**

1. Develop, Implement and Sustain Dona Ana County's Early College High Schools and develop additional industry-directed Early College High Schools over the next 10 years.
2. Increase participation in dual credit courses for students "at risk" of dropping out.
3. Increase co-operative internships and mentoring opportunities for students within the business community. Workforce training and work-based learning programs.
4. Advocate/support for seamless transitions among Doña Ana educational systems (P-20).
5. Advocate for Educators and the Education Profession.



## Strengths and Economic Benefits of the ECHS Model

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### Strengths:

- 90% national graduation rate for Early College High Schools
- Private-sector-driven mission applies proven best practices in education
- STEM and healthcare curriculum prepares students for technology careers
- 11 New Mexico early college high schools are based on The Bridge model
- ECHS curriculum offers career-focused education and workforce readiness
- Opportunity to earn HS diploma and two-year college degree
- ECHS structure and dual credit eliminates need for remedial courses

### Economically Viable:

- Capability for 2 degrees (HS diploma/AA degree) in four years
- Facility construction savings: \$18M ECHS vs. \$100M traditional campus
- Arrowhead Park ECHS model cost 16% less per student than a traditional high school
- Saves taxpayer dollars by removing need for remedial courses
- Innovative financing allowed immediate ECHS construction - no delay and no payments during Arrowhead Park ECHS building phase
- Graduates entry to market is increased by approximately 3 years or with 2-year head-start on bachelors or advanced degree. *Critical to the ability to increase employment in New Mexico*

### Early College High School 2014 Outcomes:

- 88 Arrowhead Park Early College High School (APECHS) seniors received degrees/certificates at Dona Ana Community College before high school commencement!
- APECHS graduates have no student debt and are ready for work or college 2.5-3 years earlier than the traditional student. Approximately \$1.7 million dollars of tuition saving occurred for these students.
- 100% graduation rate - 108 seniors - for APECHS' first Class of 2014. Not ONE Drop Out!!
- 66 APECHS seniors (nearly 60%) completed one or more associate degrees
- 63% of APECHS and 58% of Alta Vista ECHS (AVECHS) students are first-generation college students
- AVECHS (Gadsden) moves this fall to a standalone school with 146 students, with enrollment tripling over two years!
- LCPS and GISD students have enrolled in 1,000+ dual-credit courses on DACC campuses
- DACC offers ECHS career pathways for 9 associate degrees and 10 industry certificates
- 4<sup>th</sup> Dona Ana County ECHS: Arrowhead Park Medical Academy opened July with 62 freshmen with a focus on allied health

